All the above measures are expected to have positive impact on the growth of Indian tonnage in the coming years. In addition, the Government has also initiated action on the following so as to achieve the target to be fixed for the 10th Plan and also to provide a level playing field for Indian Shipping Industry so as to make it internationally competitive.

- The Government constituted an Expert Committee to review the Indian Shipping and suggest measures to address its problems. The Committee in its report recommended introduction of tonange tax as is followed by the leading maritime nations of the world. Action has already been initiated on the recommendations of the Committee by the Government.

- The Government has initiated a series of measures to improve port infrastructure and efficiency so as to attract higher capacity vessels, improve turnaround time, reduce per unit cost, etc. which would have a positive impact on the Indian Shipping Industry.

Notification regarding medical waste management

578. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any notification regarding medical waste management for disposing waste safely and in an environment-friendly way;

(b) if so, the date of notification in each State;

(c) the total number of hospital that have authorization certificates to dispose waste; and

(d) the total number of hospitals that have incinerators as on March, 2002, district-wise, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests has notified the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 for safe disposal of Bio-Medical Waste.

(b) to (d) The Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 were notified on July 27, 1998 and are applicable to all States/Union Territories. As per information avilable with the Central Pollution Control Board, the status of authorization in the States and Union Territories is given in the Statement. (*see* below).

As per the provision of Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998, health care facilities are required to install treatment facilities which may include incinerators (individual/common), autoclave, microwave, etc. Incineration is one of the treatment facilities to treat bio-medical waste. As per the information available with the Central Pollution Control Board, the State of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi having 28 and 18 double chamber incinerators for hospitals/nursing homes. In addition to this, common treatment/disposal facilities are also in operation for treatment of Bio-Medical Waste in Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Kolkata, Mathura and Salem.

Statement

Status of Authorisation under Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 1998 in the States/Union Territories

States/Union Territories	Authorization applied	Authorization granted
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1004	856
Arunachal Pradesh	5	3
Bihar	117	83
Goa	3	3
Gujarat	58	10
Himachal Pradesh	36	1
Jammu and Kashmir	20	Nil
Karnataka	997	820
Meghalaya	17	Nil
Nagaland	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	2	2
Punjab	11	Nil
Sikkim	Nil	Nil
Tamil Nadu	14	Nil
Tripura	Nil	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	28	2
West Bengal	414	390
Chandigarh	3	Nil
Delhi	50	36